

## What is the Residents' Society?

As Willaston does not have a Parish Council, the Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society was formed to:

- Protect and improve the environmental amenities of the village and its surroundings;
- Preserve and encourage village cultural and social activities;
- Represent the views of the village and monitor matters of common interest.

Anyone who lives within a radius of two miles of the village green is automatically a member of the society.

The committee consists of officers and resident representatives elected at our AGM, representatives from local organisations and the local councillor. We are all volunteers who give our time freely and do not claim expenses.

A full list of our committee members, our constitution and minutes of our meetings can be seen on our website: [www.willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://www.willastoninwirralresidents.org). If you would like an email alert when minutes are posted on the website, please email:

[admin@willastoninwirralresidents.org](mailto:admin@willastoninwirralresidents.org)

## New Members Needed for Johnston Recreation Ground Committee

The Recreation Ground has an Advisory Committee which works with Cheshire West and Chester Council (who act as trustees) to oversee the grounds. This includes the allotments, play area, tennis courts and football/open space. The committee urgently needs new members, including a Chair and Secretary. Meetings are approximately every two months. If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, please contact us.



## Could you Be Willaston's Tree Warden?

We are currently seeking a volunteer to take on the role of tree warden for the village. You would work closely with the local authority with support from Cheshire Wildlife Trust to survey and gather information about our trees, work with local groups to undertake practical projects etc. Really what you make of the role is up to you but the Society is interested in doing a new tree survey in the village. If you would like to know more about the role, do contact us.

## How Can I Get Involved?

If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, the first 15 minutes of each meeting is open to any resident to discuss issues with us. Please contact us if you would like to attend. You can also contact us through the 'Contact Us' page on the Society's website or directly to: [admin@willastoninwirralresidents.org](mailto:admin@willastoninwirralresidents.org). Alternatively, you can write to us c/o The Chair, 11 The Courtyard, Willaston CH64 2UT.

We keep a list of volunteers that we contact periodically if there are roles that we need people to fill or one-off opportunities for volunteering in the village. If you would like to help out, in big ways or small, please email us and we will add you to our volunteering list.



**WILLASTON**  
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[www.willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://www.willastoninwirralresidents.org)

# Willaston Matters

## Play Area Improvements

Following a successful fund-raising campaign by the Residents' Society, an upgrade of the play area will be taking place during April and May. The need for improvements to the play area was highlighted in the District Community Plan. Following further consultation with people who use the play area, we launched a £92,000 appeal to improve the play area in September 2013. So far, we have raised just over £60,000 which enables us to do the first stage of improvements. These will include:

- A new climbing unit for younger children;
- A new entrance off the pathway and a path around all the equipment suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs;
- A cantilever swing;
- Mounds and a tunnel to play on;
- A football area with children's goals;
- Additional toddlers swings;
- A seating area for adults with additional seats and leaf feature seats for children.

The current large climbing unit will be removed as it has significant safety issues but all other equipment will remain.



The play area improvements have been made possible by many people. Our major funder is WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd) which has given a grant of £37,280. WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK from funds donated by FCC Environment to the Landfill Communities Fund. In addition, Cheshire West and Chester Council has supported us by providing £10,313 from their rural fund, £5,000 from Environmental Services and £3,291 from Cllr Myles Hogg's councillor's budget.



However, these larger amounts would not have been achieved if it was not for all the support given locally, from donations in collection boxes to the many Willaston organisations that held sponsored events, raffles, and collections. In particular, Willaston Toddlers raised over £2,500 with a raffle and Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club who funded the archway at the entrance of the play area with a combination of their own fundraising and support of a grant from Rotary International Foundation Fund. Thank you all for your support. Thanks also to Cheshire West and Chester Council who have supported us throughout the process of designing, costing and tendering for the contractor.

The full plan and list of donors can be seen on our website: [www.willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://www.willastoninwirralresidents.org).



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Issue One - April 2015

Free to Willaston residents

Funded by CWAC New Homes  
Bonus Community Fund





## Friends of Hadlow Road Station

One of the issues raised through the Community District Plan consultation was of the need to improve Hadlow Road Station. Consequently the Residents' Society has established an independent 'Friends of Hadlow Road Station' group which will work with Cheshire West and Chester Council to develop this local amenity. Legal matters such as the constitution and relationship with the Council have been agreed and a committee has been formed. They have developed a list of improvements that need to be done - the list can be seen on our website. If you would like to become involved, either as a volunteer or committee member, please contact Chris Hampshire on 0151 327 4511.

### Did You Know?

- The Hooton to West Kirby railway opened on 1st October 1866;
- Passenger services stopped on 17th September 1956 but it continued to be used for freight until 7th May 1962;
- The station is designated by English Heritage as a Grade II listed building;
- The Wirral Way, from Hooton to West Kirby is 12 miles long.

## Disabled Parking Bay



You will probably have noticed the new parking bay designated for people with a permit which is at the first space on the Green. This follows requests from people who have found it difficult to use local shops because of problems parking nearby and follows a wider consultation on parking on the Green last year. The proposals to limit the time allowed to park on the Green and put in a one-way system around the Green are not being implemented as there was opposition to these ideas but we are pleased that we have been able to put in the parking bay.

## Councillor's Column



*Cllr Myles Hogg writes:*

Willaston remains a vibrant community which residents take great pride in. As its Councillor and local resident myself, I strive to make it an even better place to live and work in.

The new 20 mph zone in Neston Road has reduced the average speed along its length by around 6 mph. Sadly not everyone abides by the lower speed limit so on-going enforcement actions are needed.

A fresh Council initiative against dog fouling has been launched and hopefully the school will take part in a campaign to reduce dog waste on the footpath in the Recreation Ground used by parents and school children.

My Councillors' fund, provided out of our rates, has helped fund the much needed improvement to the children's play area on the Recreation Ground and a new trailer for the Scouts' canoes. Other local Societies have also benefited from these funds, so please continue to put your bids in.

Please read about the new weekly mini-bus service to Arrowe Park Hospital each Tuesday on the Village notice boards. This worthwhile service is being trialled for 3 months.

The dates of my monthly Surgeries are also on the notice boards. I am also contactable on 0151 327 4096 or by email: [myles.hogg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:myles.hogg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk).

## Willaston Lottery

Did you know that Willaston has its own lottery? This is the main source of funding for the Residents' Society and enables us to meet regularly and help fund projects in the village. There are four prizes each month of between £15 and £25. Annual tickets go on sale in August of each year and cost £12. If you would like to support us, ring Hilary on 0151 327 8325.

## Planning

A key item at every meeting is to look at the latest planning applications in our area and make comments on them. Our general principles in commenting are:

- to protect the Green Belt area around Willaston so that we remain a rural community;
- to preserve the Conservation area within the village and maintain its unique character.

In the past few months, we have been particularly concerned at the number of applications that have been on the Green Belt land and have put in detailed objections to them. These have included applications in Mill Lane, off Hooton Road and in Lydiate Lane which were all attempting to overturn the long held principle within Willaston that there should be no new development outside the defined village inset. We also managed to have a meeting with Council Planning Department Manager to help us understand the implications of the key planning regulations relating to new development.

Last year we submitted our views on the emerging new Local Plan. This was adopted by the Council in late January and can be viewed on their website. This new strategic plan retains the key elements of defining development within the Green Belt and our village inset.

A monthly planning report, detailing the applications made and our response to them is available on our website: [www.willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://www.willastoninwirralresidents.org).

## What's On?

These are the main events over the next few months. For more details keep an eye on noticeboards and our website:

**Annual Church Meeting**  
Tuesday 21st April

**Willaston School Summer Fair**  
Saturday 16th May

**Willaston Village Festival**  
25-28th June Wide range of activities including flower festivals, drive in movie, community afternoon, dog show, big picnic and pig racing.

**Hadlow Green Singers Summer Concert**  
Friday 10th and Saturday 11th July

**Horticultural Show**  
Saturday 1st August

**Willaston Residents' and Country-side Society AGM**  
Friday 25th September Your chance to hear what is going on in the village and have your say

## Footpaths



Our Footpaths Officer works very hard, liaising with the Council about issues affecting our footpaths - whether it is flooding, misuse or repair issues. You may have noticed the smart new kissing gates on the footpaths between Mill Lane and Benty Heath Lane (see picture) which we asked Wirral Borough Council to install when we heard they had funding for kissing gates (see picture) last year. This winter, metal kissing gates have been installed this year between New Hey Lane and the A540, funded by Cllr Myles Hogg's budget and the Wirral Footpaths and Open Spaces Preservation Society.

We have also recently had funding from Merseyside and West Cheshire Area Ramblers to enable us to put way mark signs up for the various walks around Willaston. Look out for those over the summer. If you would like to know more about the walks, a downloadable map and directions are available on our website.

If you have any comments about the footpaths, or would be willing to help maintain a path near you, please do contact us by emailing [willastonfootpaths@outlook.com](mailto:willastonfootpaths@outlook.com).